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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,066	12/22/2000	Thomas Zech	Westphal.6007	3230

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,066

Applicant(s)

ZECH ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15, 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 8 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Response filed December 31, 2003 in which Claims 4-5 have been amended and new Claims 19-20 have been added, has been place of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 7 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,215). With regard to Claims 1 and 16, Lee et al. discloses a socket connector (12) that mates with a plug connector (14) to establish an electrical plug connector assembly, the socket connector (12) comprising: a housing (28) that includes a socket receiving aperture (22a) having a center axis or receiving aperture axis (A) formed by a housing wall (front of 12); a U-shaped first contact part (50) mounted within the housing (28) and including first and second walls (50e, portion between 50a and the upper curved portion before 50e) that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis or receiving aperture axis (A); and a second

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contact part (46) mounted within the housing (28) to nominally contact the u-shaped first contact part (50) in order provide an electrical connection between the first (50) and second (46) contact parts, wherein when the plug connector (14) is inserted along the center axis or receiving aperture axis (A) into the socket receiving aperture (22a) the first wall (50e) flexes radially with respect to the center axis or receiving aperture axis (A) breaking the electrical connection between the U-shaped first contact part (50) and the second contact part (46). See Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 2 and 17, Lee et al. discloses the first wall (50e) flexing radially away from the second wall (portion between 50a and the upper curved portion before 50e) when the plug connector (14) is inserted into the socket receiving aperture (22a). See Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claims 3 and 18, Lee et al. discloses the first (54) and second (64) walls being integrally connected by a semicircular wall (upper curve portion in 50) of the U-shaped first contact part (50), and the socket connector (12) comprises a radially outward sloped guide wall (48a) mounted to the first wall (50e), wherein the sloped guide wall (48a) facilitates moving the first wall (50e) radially away from the second wall (portion between 50a and the upper curved portion before 50e) as the plug connector (14) is inserted into the socket receiving aperture (22a). See Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 4, Lee et al. discloses a connection plate (between 64 and 66) integrally attached to the U-shaped first contact part (50). See Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 5, Lee et al. discloses a least one holding protrusion (50f) integrally attached to the U-shaped first contact part (50). See Figs. 1-5.

With regard to Claim 7, Lee et al. discloses the housing (28) including an insulating part (30, 31) into which the second contact part (54) and the U-shaped first contact part (50) are inserted and operable positioned. See Figs. 1-5.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-15 and 19-20 are allowed for the reasons given in the Office Action of March 18, 2003.

5. Claims 6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims for the reasons given in the Office Action of March 18, 2003.

6. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the second contact part and the U-shaped first contact part each comprising at least one holding protrusion that engages the insulating part to hold the second contact part and the U-shaped first contact part axially in place and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7-8 and 16-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

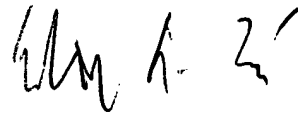
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
March 25, 2004